

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A quick-coupling device (1,2) for coupling tools (3) on machines, especially agricultural, transport, lifting, digging and earth-moving machines, said machines comprising an articulated arm (4) having a distal end portion to which a rigid tool (3) is couplable,

~~characterised in that~~ wherein the quick-coupling device (1,2) comprises:

- an adaptor (2) joinable to said articulated arm (4) through at least one master pin (7), the adaptor comprising a substantially flat base plate (17) with first side walls (10), and displaceable locking means (13) protruding transversally through the first side walls (10); and
- coupling means (1) attachable to the tool (3) and comprising rigid hooks (5,5',6,6') engageable with said at least one master pin (7) and second side walls (9) with openings (8) aligned with the displaceable locking means (13) of the adaptor (2) when the device is in use in its locking position,

wherein the first side walls (10) of the adaptor (2) are, in use, locked between the second side walls (9) of the coupling means (1),

wherein at least a part of the first side walls (10) comprises first inclined surface portions (10') converging in the coupling direction and/or at least a part of the second side walls (9) of the coupling means (1) comprise converging second inclined surface portions (9'), such that the base plate (17) of the adaptor (2) is in contact with a corresponding substantially flat-surfaced portion (17') of the tool (3) when the adaptor (2) is locked onto the coupling

means (1) and tool (3), respectively, by engaging the displaceable locking means (13) with the openings (8) of the coupling means (1),

wherein the coupling means (1) of the tool (3) comprise four rigid hooks (5,5',6,6') located on the four ends of the second side walls (9) of the coupling means (1), a pair of rigid hooks (5,5') being located at a front portion and a pair of rigid hooks (6,6') being located at a rear portion, said rigid hooks (5,5',6,6') being positioned so that the at least one master pin (7) is able to be coupled with both the pair of front hooks (5,5') and with the pair of rear hooks (6,6'), so that the tool (3) is able to be coupled and fixed to the adaptor (2) in two different positions, at an angle of 180° with respect to one another.

2. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the outer surface of the side walls (10) of the adaptor (2) have sloping guiding surfaces (10') around the protruding ends of at least one master pin (7,7'), said surfaces being cone-shaped with an imaginary axis being coincident with the longitudinal axis of the master pin (7,7').

3. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein at least a part of the first side walls (10) comprises first inclined surface portions (10') converging in the coupling direction and at least a part of the second side walls (9) of the coupling means (1) comprise converging second inclined surface portions (9'), said converging second inclined surface portions (9') matching the first inclined surface portions (10') so as to achieve a wedge effect between the first inclined surface portions (10') and the converging second inclined surface portions (9').

4. (Currently Amended) The device of ~~any of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, wherein there are two perforations (8) on each side wall (9), opposite each other, and equidistant from the hooks on the same wall (9) and axially aligned in the coupling position with the movable fixing means (13)

through the side walls (10) of the adaptor (2), and the master pin (7) being coupled in the pair of front hooks (5,5') or in the pair of rear hooks (6,6'), due to the symmetrical positioning of the perforations (8), the movable fixing means (13) of the adaptor (2), upon moving, are introduced in the said perforations (8) of the coupling means (1) of the tool (3), the coupling means (2) and the tool (3) being joined in any of the possible coupling positions.

5. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 4, wherein the perforations (8) of the side walls (10) of the tool (3) have a section which gets smaller towards the outside, which matches with another section which gets smaller towards the outside of the fixing means (13) to be housed inside of these during the coupling position.

6. (Currently Amended) The device of ~~any of claims 1-5~~ claim 1, wherein the coupling means (1) have in their front and rear parts means for housing the adaptor (2), which respectively have opposite sloping surfaces, and in that the end of the tool (2) opposite the master pin (7) has at least one matching chamfer with a sloping surface so that, in the coupling position, the chamfer or chamfers can rest, without any play, on the sloping surfaces of the housing means located on the front or rear part of the coupling means (1), depending on the coupling position.

7. (Currently Amended) The device of ~~any of claims 1-6~~ claim 1, wherein at least one fixing means (13) has a rod (16) whose free end is visible from the outside, so that it can be determined visually whether the fixing element (13) is housed inside the corresponding perforation (8).

8. (Canceled)